



Icebreaker

Have you read a book or watched a movie about a “near death” experience? What do you think of those stories?

As a child, did you ever have to deal with the death of a loved one? How did people try to comfort you?

How can we know about life after death?

On Sunday, I claimed that Jesus is the ultimate source of information on heaven, hell, and eternity because he pulled off his own resurrection. If you have doubts about any of that, this is a safe place to bring them up and discuss them. Do you have any doubts, questions, or concerns about Jesus’ authority over death?

The Rich Man and Lazarus – Luke 16:19-31 (p. 730)

Read Luke 16:19-31, but also consider the context. Specifically, consider verses 10-15. Jesus’ teaching here is primarily about how we should view wealth. Worldly wealth is something that competes with God for the attention of our hearts. Where God would call us to good stewardship and caring for the poor, we value the accumulation of wealth and the apparent security it brings. However, Jesus tells us to consider eternity, and that’s why he tells this story. It’s also why we know Jesus is telling us the truth about our own future. He’s hoping that this warning will motivate us to live properly in this world today!

What seems important or interesting to you in this story?

What seems confusing in this story?

Based on this story and a few other things said by Jesus, I drew the following conclusions about life after death:

- ◆ The conscious soul continues after death.
- ◆ The righteous go to Paradise, the rest to Hades (Torment).
- ◆ To be righteous, one must repent of sin and trust Jesus (John 3:16, 18).
- ◆ Your destiny begins immediately at death (Luke 23:39-43).
- ◆ Those who repent and trust in Jesus will enter Paradise at death, but those who don’t won’t.

What do you think of those statements?

On Sunday, I mentioned a progression of responding to this truth:

Start to trust → Repent of sin → Live it Daily → Share it with others

Which stage are you in and what will it take to move you to the next one?



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